

## **SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 01 MARCH 2020**

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and on various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. Audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) where you can also sign up to receive future bulletins by e-mail.

In the news, today:

### **THE SARL HAMNET CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON**

#### **SARL FEATURING LARGE AT HOBBY-X 2020**

**AND**

#### **CONTEST ACTIVITY IN MARCH**

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

### **THE SARL HAMNET CONTEST THIS AFTERNOON**

The popular SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC this afternoon with phone activity between 7 063 and 7 100 kHz and 7 130 and 7 200 kHz. Hopefully the weather will play ball and you can get out and set up a portable or field station. You can participate as a single operator stationary mobile station, a single operator portable station, a multi-operator portable station with a bring and braai or if it rains a single operator base station. Log sheets must be submitted by 9 March 2020 by e-mail to [contest@peham.co.za](mailto:contest@peham.co.za). Get the rules on page 33 and 34 of the Blue Book.

### **THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTE**

The electronic vote for the SARL Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 concluded at 23:59 CAT on Wednesday 26 February 2020. There was a 10,5% turn out with 164 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 5 abstentions. The Financial Statements are thus approved and will not be discussed on the 2020 AGM.

#### **THE SARL FEATURING LARGE AT HOBBY-X 2020**

The SARL will be featuring large when Hobby-X 2020 opens its doors on Thursday 5 March 2020. Hobby-X is taking place at the Ticketpro Dome in Northgate, a stone's throw away from the National Amateur Radio Centre. Hobby-X will be open on Thursday and Friday from 10:00 - 18:00, on Saturday from 09:00 - 18:00 and on Sunday from 09:00 - 17:00. The SARL stands feature a state-of-the-art HF station and in cooperation with AMSAT SA also an OSCAR Qatar 100 satellite station. The ZS95SARL call sign will be used by the station. Other displays include radios from yesteryear featuring the Antique Wireless Association, Hammies display and a build your own project workstation. The Secunda Amateur Radio Club display features BACAR and AMSAT SA the AfriCUBE satellite.

#### SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM AT EARLY BIRD RATES.

Book now for the SARL Unlocking Amateur Radio Technology at early bird rates. The symposium takes place on Friday 3 April from 13:00 to 18:30 followed by a finger cocktail supper at the Wanderers in Johannesburg. The programme features presentations on many aspects of Amateur Radio which are geared for delegates to take home new insights and ideas on how to enjoy their hobby more than ever before. Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ will show how beacons can excite your participation in VHF activity. Learn about the telegram app to be launched at the event. Chris Burger, ZS6EZ, one of South Africa's most experienced contesters and DXers, will show you a few tricks and even show the non-contester how participation without killing the day or night can be fun! The booking details are on the SARL web at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

#### THE MARCH 2020 RADIO ZS

The March 2020 Radio ZS is available for download from the League web site. On the menu on the left, click on Publications and then on Radio ZS Download.

In this 100 page issue you can read about the young Voortrekkers who are going to speak to the astronauts, a sophisticated Soviet spy radio discovered buried in a forest in Germany and the G3LEK key that turned up in Chile and the top 10 reasons to take ham radio portable. On the technical side we look at 2,4 GHz transmitting with LimeSDR and EDUP Wi-Fi PA, a VLNA-144 very low noise preamplifier, ADALM PLUTO Tuning, a stacked delta loop antenna for the 2 m band and a 12 Volt Gel Cell Charger.

The Cape Town ARC and KARTS share their field day stories, while the Zululand ARC tells about the maintenance at the 2 m Ntumeni repeater. SARL Hamnet Eastern Cape shares their involvement in the Herald Mountain Bike Race. Read about ARDF, Nemo-1 the amateur radio WSPR buoy and what is a counterpoise?

#### AWA CW ACTIVITY DAY RESULTS

Although there were a number of stations taking part in the Antique Wireless Association CW activity day, only 2 logs were received.

1<sup>st</sup> Eric Lewis, ZS5EL

2<sup>nd</sup> Adrian Ellison, ZS1TTZ

#### CONTEST ACTIVITY IN MARCH

On the weekend of 7 and 8 March you can participate in the ARRL DX SSB contest. Sunday 8 March is International Women's Day and the first leg of the SARL YL Sprint.

The weekend of 14 and 15 March sees the running of the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest as well as the longest running contest, the RSGB Commonwealth contest, which is CW only.

On Wednesday 18 March, the second leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint takes place and over the weekend of 28 and 29 March you can work the world during the CQ WPX SSB contest.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspots visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially in the late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website [spaceweather.sansa.org.za](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the SARL Hamnet 40 m Contest

5 to 8 March – The SARL and ZS95SARL at Hobby-X

7 March – Cape Town ARC Flea Market

7 and 8 March – the ARRL DX SSB Contest

8 March – the SARL YL Sprint

14 and 15 March – the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest and the RSGB Commonwealth contest

18 March – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The popular SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC this afternoon with phone activity between 7 063 and 7 100 kHz and 7 130 and 7 200 kHz. Log sheets must be submitted by 9 March

2020 by e-mail to [contest@peham.co.za](mailto:contest@peham.co.za). Get the rules on page 33 and 34 of the Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the news inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly amateur radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to [artoday@sarl.org.za](mailto:artoday@sarl.org.za).

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.